



U. S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, April 18, 2006	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767
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“METH DEALER GETS LIFE IN PRISON”

Spokane – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced that U.S. District Court Judge Lonny R. Suko sentenced 32-year old Raul S. Zavala to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Mr. Zavala, a resident of Spokane, was arrested on April 29, 2005, by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Drug Task Force, comprised of members from the Spokane Police Department, Spokane County Sheriff’s Office, and the Washington State Patrol, in possession of two pounds of methamphetamine that he intended to sell to a confidential informant working with the Task Force. On January 25, 2006, a jury found Mr. Zavala guilty of Possession with the Intent to Distribute 500 Grams or More of a Mixture or Substance Containing Methamphetamine and use of a cellular telephone to facilitate a drug felony. Mr. Zavala had previously been convicted of two prior drug felonies in the Spokane County Superior Court. In 1996, Mr. Zavala was convicted of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and again in 1998, Mr. Zavala was convicted of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and delivery of methamphetamine. Because of his two prior convictions, Mr. Zavala received the mandatory minimum sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

This case was prosecuted by Aine Ahmed, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington.